



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest fire managers plan cooperative prescribed fire on the North Rim

Grand Canyon, Ariz. - Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest Fire Managers are planning to conduct a prescribed fire on the North Rim if weather conditions permit. The Northwest prescribed fire unit will be ignited over a three-day period starting Thursday, November 8. This burn unit is located along the Grand Canyon National Park/Kaibab National Forest boundary approximately 12 air miles northwest of the North Rim developed area and is approximately 4,000 acres in size. The majority of the burn unit is on Grand Canyon National Park lands, but a portion of the burn unit is on Kaibab National Forest lands.

A combination of hand and aerial ignition techniques will be employed to light this burn. A three-day ignition plan allows fire managers to assess fire effects and monitor smoke. Some smoke in the western portion of the canyon may be experienced over the next several nights, but the smoke should lift and dissipate as daytime temperatures rise. No road or trail closures are anticipated with the Northwest prescribed burn unit.

Fire managers use prescribed fire to restore and sustain the fire-dependant ecosystems that surround the Grand Canyon. Benefits from these fires include reducing hazardous fuels that can lead to more intense wildfires, sustaining ecological processes like nutrient and biomass recycling, balancing plant regeneration and mortality, and providing a diversity of habitats for native plants and animals.

Facilities on the North Rim closed for the season October 16. The North Rim remains open for day use until snow closes Highway 67 for the winter.

For more information, please contact Pamela Walls, public affairs specialist at Grand Canyon National Park, at (928) 638-7958; call the park's recorded fire information message at (928) 638-7819; or go to the park's Web site at www.nps.gov/grca.

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